



## Tips on Responding to a Tornado

### ➤ Before a Tornado

- Listen to the latest weather news via NOAA weather radio or local radio or television newscasts. Listen to the instructions/information from the Code Red messages.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.
- Look for the following danger signs:
  - Dark, often greenish sky
  - Large Hail
  - A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
  - Loud roar, similar to a freight train.
  - If you see approaching storms or any danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

### ➤ During a Tornado

If you are in:	Then:
A structure (e.g. residence, small building, school, nursing home, hospital, factory,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go to a pre-designated area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of a small interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners,</li> </ul>

shopping center, high-rise building)	<p>windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In a high-rise building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.</li><li>• Put on sturdy shoes.</li><li>• Do not open windows.</li></ul>
A manufactured home or office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get out immediately and go to a pre-identified location such as the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.</li></ul>
The outside with no shelter	<p>If you are not in a sturdy building, there is no single research-based recommendation for what last-resort action to take because many factors can affect your decision. Possible actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter. If your vehicle is hit by flying debris while you are driving, pull over and park.</li><li>• Take cover in a stationary vehicle. Put the seat belt on and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.</li></ul>

- Lie in an area noticeably lower than the level of the roadway and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.

In all situations:

- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

### ➤ **After a Tornado**

- Listen to local officials for updates and instructions.
- Check-in with family and friends by texting or using social media.
- Watch out for debris and downed power lines.
- If you are trapped, do not move about or kick up dust. Tap on a pipe or wall or use a whistle, if you have one, so that rescuers can locate you.
- Stay out of damaged buildings and homes until local authorities indicate it is safe.
- Photograph the damage to your property in order to assist in filing an insurance claim.
- Do what you can to prevent further damage to your property, (e.g., putting a tarp on a damaged roof), as

insurance may not cover additional damage that occurs after the storm.

- If your home is without power, use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns rather than candles to prevent accidental fires.